BACKGROUND: The Arizona Public Safety Communications Advisory Commission (PSCC) and Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC) continually work to develop guidelines, recommendations and standards intended to promote public safety interoperable radio communications for all Arizona first responders. Under A.R.S. 41-3542, PSCC is responsible for the development of a standard based system that provides interoperability of public safety agencies' communications statewide.

As outlined in Arizona's Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP), Arizona's strategy for improving interoperable communications by leveraging existing assets, agreements, and funding sources is to pursue a system-of-systems approach to interoperable communications that leverages connections between separate local, regional, and/or state operated systems for public safety emergency response communications.

To facilitate interoperability between jurisdictions and disciplines at all levels of government, all public safety agencies are recommended to meet or exceed these minimum standards when purchasing mobile and portable radio equipment for the purposes of public safety emergency response communications.

All mobile and portable radio equipment purchased through Homeland Security grants or other federal grant sources are required to meet or exceed certain standards[1]. In addition, agencies with an ongoing need to interoperate with federal agencies should meet these standards regardless of the funding source used to purchase the equipment.

STANDARD: The following standards implement certain radio features, nationally recognized to promote and maintain a higher level of interoperable communications among and between public safety jurisdictions and disciplines.

MOBILE – PORTABLES MINIMUM STANDARDS

BAND	MINIMUM CHANNEL	CHANNEL DISPLAY	FREQUENCY RANGE	NARROWBAND CAPABLE	PROJECT 25[2,3]
VHF	48 CH OR GREATER	7 CHAR OR GREATER	150 – 174 MHz	REQUIRED	CAPABLE
UHF	48 CH OR GREATER	7 CHAR OR GREATER	450 – 470 MHz	REQUIRED	CAPABLE
700 MHz[4]	48 CH OR GREATER	7 CHAR OR GREATER	769 – 775 MHz 799 – 805 MHz	REQUIRED	REQUIRED
800 MHz[4]	48 CH OR GREATER	7 CHAR OR GREATER	806 – 824 MHz 851 – 869 MHz	REQUIRED	REQUIRED

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[1] http://www.safecomprogram.gov/library/lists/library/DispForm.aspx?ID=334

[2] Refer to the Responder Knowledge Base (RKB) to identify equipment that is certified by the P25 Compliance Assessment Program (P25 CAP). For more information, see: https://www.rkb.us/search.cfm?typeid=2.

[3] Refer to the Office of Interoperability and Compatibility (OIC) guidelines at the Public Safety Communications Research Program (PSCR) web-site: http://www.pscr.gov/outreach/safecom/grant_guidance/grant_charts.php.

[4] Contact the ARRC or RPC (Region 3) to assure the availability and management of frequencies.